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Ole Mexican Grill on Broadway will soon change its name to Zocalo Cucina Mexicana.
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THE ARLINGTON ADVOCATE

ESTABLISHED 1872 ~ VOL. 133, NO. 2 • THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2005 • ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS • 75¢



Sophomore Clare Nauman plays her violin during rehearsals of the Arlington High School Honors Orchestra last Friday. The orchestra and Madrigal Singers are preparing for a European tour and farewell concert.

STAFF PHOTOS BY ELLEN BULLOCK

Plan gets mixed review

By Roberto Scalese
STAFF WRITER

Selectman Charles Lyons' fiscal plan for Arlington received a warm but mixed review by town officials on Monday during the Budget and Revenue Task Force and Board of Selectmen meetings.

In light of an estimated \$5 million deficit in the next fiscal year, Lyons has called for a 4 percent spending cap on all departments and a 7 percent cap on benefits for the next five years. He also wants the state Legislature to restore local aid cuts over the next three years.

Arlington has lost \$3.2 million in state aid over the last three years. The plan also calls for a \$6 million override in November and installing protections for seniors on fixed incomes.

There was a mixed response to the plan Monday night, as officials said the outline was generally good, but had concerns about specific details.

The biggest issue focused on the timing of the proposed override. Lyons has

Plan, Page 26

Heading back to Europe

AHS groups preparing for tour, concert

By Jenny Brown
CORRESPONDENT

While most Arlington kids enjoyed the third snow day of the week, a group of 26 students sluggishly made their way to the music room at Arlington High School.

Gathered in a semi-circle around a piano, they wore oversized hoodie sweatshirts, sipped coffee and munched on Doritos, looking every part the typical teenagers. But when choral director Cheryl Christo Hemenway approached the piano, the group, the AHS Madrigal Singers, suddenly came to life.

After a few moments limbering their voices, something magical happened: the room filled with rich, lush song as they gracefully began an Irish blessing. At Hemenway's cue, they seamlessly switched the song, midstream, from English to Italian.

In the auditorium next door, the 14 equally dedicated students who make up the Honors String Orchestra followed conductor Pasquale Tassone's direction as they played a lively medley from "West Side Story" before practicing with equal enthusiasm "Sonata No. 4" by Arcangelo Corelli. Tassone,




Cheryl Hemenway directs the Madrigal Singers during rehearsals last Friday.

who not only leads the orchestra but is the director of fine arts for the Arlington Public Schools, arranged the sonata for the violin and viola himself.

These committed students have willingly given up their free day for

Tour, Page 26



THE SCOOP...
Who: AHS Madrigal Singers and Honors Orchestra
What: Farewell Concert
When: Thursday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m.
Where: AHS' Lowe Auditorium

Local aid numbers unclear

By Roberto Scalese
STAFF WRITER

Arlington's legislative delegation sounded a warning Monday night, telling the Board of Selectmen and Budget and Revenue Task Force that increasing local aid is easier said than done.

Increasing local aid to towns was front and center during the two meetings, because they are critical components of a fiscal plan presented at both sessions by Selectman Charles Lyons. Lyons is calling for a restoration of cuts in state aid, totaling \$3.2 million for Arlington, over a three-year period.

Rep. Jay Kaufman, Anne Paulsen, Jim Marzilli and Sen. Robert Havern attended the two meetings Monday and offered their opinions on the state's upcoming budget process. What's clear is that the Legislature will move slower than it has in the last two years, because of new personnel in leadership roles and changes in the process.

Beyond the logistical problems, local aid is just one of several state budget items that have been squeezed over the last few years, making the competition for additional funding fierce.

"I think we don't know when we'll know the level of local aid," said

Local Aid, Page 26

Reaching the summit: Zukroff climbs Kilimanjaro

By Brooke Leister
STAFF WRITER

At 14,000 feet on Mount Kilimanjaro, Stacia Zukroff took in the desolate landscape filled solely by volcanic rock. The scene was a stark contrast to the lush rainforest, filled with monkeys, birds and snakes, 7,000 feet below at the trail's start.

"You feel like you could be in the Amazon," the Arlington resident said of the hike's beginning. "And then within a day, the trees get shorter. There's not enough oxygen with the cold. We stopped seeing any type of plant life at about 14,000 feet — not even a shrub — just volcanic rock."

At the end of December, Zukroff, chairman of the Appalachian Mountain Club's major excursions, led 14 people to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. The mountain rises 19,340 feet above the African plain and is the largest free-standing mountain in the world.

The North Shore native began hiking in 1997 while living in Washington. When she returned to Massachusetts, she wanted to continue her hobby.


"I was living in Washington state. I could see them (the Cascade Mountains) out my window in the distance," said Zukroff, who manages the study abroad and exchange programs at Babson College. "When I moved back to Massachusetts in 1998, it (hiking) had become such a part of my life that I wanted to find a place to do it here."

She joined the Appalachian Mountain Club and within a year became a volunteer leader. From there, she began leading hiking and backpacking trips for the Young Members' Committee, which she still does today. After participating in special training, Zukroff, who also works part-time at Wild Women Outfitters in Arlington Center, became a major excursions leader.

She has led trips in the Canadian Rockies, New Zealand, Nepal, Alaska and, most recently, Tanzania.

Prior to leaving for Africa, she and the hike participants met four times throughout 2004. Before each excursion, she tries to meet at least once with her group. Because the Tanzania participants lived within two hours of each other, it was easier to get together. Group par-

Climber, Page 26



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Addition eyed

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church on Concord Turnpike is looking to expand.

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Vote

See the Readers Choice ballot in this week's paper for your opportunity to vote for your favorites in a host of categories.

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a look Inside

Here's Johnny

The Regent Theatre hosted a tribute to Johnny Carson Friday.

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Winter blunderland

The Advocate searched Massachusetts Avenue last Thursday looking for businesses that were violating the town's snow removal bylaw. We took photos of some of the violating sidewalks.

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Correction

Because of an editing error, "Resolve to get more sleep in 2005" in the Jan. 20 Health and Fitness supplement incorrectly stated the amount of sleep recommended for adults by Dr. Lawrence Epstein, regional medical director of Sleep HealthCenters. Epstein states the most adults require seven and a half to eight hours of sleep per night.

The following are excerpts from the Arlington Police Department log. The information is available to the public.

Monday, Jan. 24

- At 5:23 a.m., a Massachusetts Avenue business owner called police after a plow operator pushed snow onto his property. There was no damage.
- At 9:54 a.m., police responded to a two-car accident at River and Warren streets. One person was taken to a hospital.
- At 2:42 p.m., a Summer Street resident reported identity theft. Police are investigating.
- At 6:25 p.m., police received a call from Ottoson Middle School after a 12-year-old student's cellular phone was stolen from a locker.

Tuesday, Jan. 25

- At 10:29 a.m., a Hamilton Road resident called police after a driver hit a parked car and fled the scene. Police are investigating.
- At 7:59 p.m., police received a call from George Street after someone forced open a car door and stole tools. Police are investigating.
- At 9:34 p.m., a Germaine Lawrence staff member reported being assaulted by a student. Police are investigating.
- At 11:48 p.m., a Sunnyside Avenue resident called police after someone forced open a rear window and stole a laptop computer.

Wednesday, Jan. 26

- At 3:19 p.m., police spoke to a suspected shoplifter at a Massachusetts Avenue business and sent him on his way.
- At 10:52 p.m., a Woodside Lane resident reported an attempted burglary.

Thursday, Jan. 27

- At 2:29 p.m., police responded to a motor vehicle accident at Herbert Road and Melrose Street. One person was taken to an area hospital.

Friday, Jan. 28

- At 9:36 a.m., a Massachusetts

POLICE LOG

Arrests

Monday, Jan. 24

- At 11:03 a.m., police arrested Junior L. Docarmo, 19, 17 George St., Somerville, and charged him with operating a motor vehicle without a license. Officer Joseph Dunn responded to a motor vehicle accident on Warren Street. Dunn discovered Docarmo was driving without a license and made the arrest.

- At 9:30 p.m., police arrested three juveniles and charged them with being minors in possession of alcohol. Officer Brian Connerney responded to Bishop School concerning a first-floor motion alarm. When he arrived, the officer saw a vehicle parked in the lot. He approached the vehicle and found three teens sitting in the car and noticed they possessed beer. He also saw three empty beer cans in the snow near the driver's window. Connerney asked the driver to open his truck where the officer discovered an unopened 30-pack of beer and one opened 30-pack with nine beers missing. Connerney made the arrests.

Tuesday, Jan. 25

- At 5:08 p.m., police arrested Arsenio Borges, 39, 47 Webster St., Apt. 1, Woburn, and charged him with unarmed robbery, possessing a Class B substance (cocaine) and assault and battery. Officer Michael Hogan

responded to Trowbridge Street concerning an intoxicated man out of control who had robbed an ex-girlfriend. Borges fled the area before police arrived. Officers searched the area and found the Woburn man in a Massachusetts Avenue business.

Thursday, Jan. 27

- At 12:13 p.m., police arrested Roan R. Bennett, 32, 101 Hazelton St., Mattapan, and charged him on a warrant for operating a motor vehicle without a license. Officer Karen Kelley was called to the Community Safety Building when Bennett went to the station to sign for the release of his motor vehicle. Police found there was a warrant for the Mattapan man's arrest. Kelley made the arrest.
- At 2:43 p.m., police arrested Casey Richard Kolenda, 18, 32 Central St., and charged him with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon (a table) and resisting arrest. Officer Michael Hogan responded to Central Street concerning a fight. When Hogan arrived at the scene, he saw Kolenda and ordered him to stop. The teen allegedly tried to flee, but police caught him. They also used pepper spray to subdue Kolenda. Hogan made the arrest.

Saturday, Jan. 29

- At 9:19 a.m., police arrested

George Dickinson, 33, 15 Grove St. Place, and charged him with leaving the scene of an accident that resulted in property damage, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and a warrant for leaving the scene of an accident that resulted in property damage. Officer Donald Brown responded to Coleman Road and Massachusetts Avenue regarding two people arguing about a motor vehicle accident. By the time Brown arrived at the scene, one of the drivers, Dickinson, had already fled. The other driver told police she was driving on Bartlett Avenue when another driver side-swiped her vehicle. She beeped her horn and followed the other driver. She caught the other vehicle at Coleman Road and Massachusetts Avenue and an argument ensued. Police found Dickinson's vehicle in front of his home. Brown made the arrest.

Sunday, Jan. 30

- At 10:27 a.m., police arrested Ariel A. Rivera, 39, 123 Thorndike St., and charged him on a warrant for receiving stolen property more than \$250. Officer Donald Brown responded to a disturbance call on Thorndike Street and found there was a warrant for Rivera's arrest. Brown made the arrest.

Avenue resident reported identity theft. Police are investigating.

- At 9:49 a.m., police received a call from Massachusetts Avenue after a resident noticed a vehicle's door and running board had been damaged. Police believe the damage could have been caused by a snow plow.
- At 1:16 p.m., police responded to Hardy School about graffiti found on the building.

- At 2:49 p.m., a Varnum Street resident reported two tires were slashed on a vehicle.

- At 4:29 p.m., a Colonial Village Drive resident called police after someone forced open a residence's lock with a screwdriver and stole a computer.

Saturday, Jan. 29

- At 7:40 a.m., a Hodge Road resident reported identity theft. Police are investigating.

- At 1:21 p.m., police received a call after prescription medicine was stolen from a Massachusetts Avenue facility. Police are investigating.

- At 3:19 p.m., police responded to Prentiss Road concerning money taken from a wallet.

- At 10:22 p.m., a Gardner Street resident notified police after someone smashed a car window.

MEETINGS

Thursday, Feb. 3

- School Committee's Policy and Procedures Subcommittee meets at 3:30 p.m. in the Superintendent's office, Arlington High School, sixth floor.
- Sports Center Improvement Committee meets at 7 p.m. in Veterans Memorial Skating Rink, 422 Summer St.
- Affordable Housing Task Force meets at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex, first-floor conference room.

- Conservation Commission meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Department of Public Works conference room, Town Hall Annex, second floor.

Monday, Feb. 7

- Board of Selectmen meets at 7:15 p.m. in the Selectmen's Chambers, Town Hall, second floor.
- Vision 2020's Sustainable Arlington meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Jefferson Cutter House.
- Arlington Bicycle Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex, first-floor conference room.

ference room.

- Finance Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Safety Building, second-floor meeting room.

Tuesday, Feb. 8

- Board of Health meets at 1 p.m. in the Senior Center, first-floor conference room.
- Tri-Community Working Group meets at 6:30 p.m. in the Selectmen's Hearing Room, Town Hall, second floor.
- School Committee meets at 7 p.m. in the School Committee

Room, Arlington High School, sixth floor.

- Park and Recreation Commission meets at 7 p.m. in the Senior Center, ground-floor conference room.
- Town-wide Parent-Teacher Organization meets at 7 p.m. in Robbins Library, fourth floor.
- Vision 2020's Spy Pond Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex, first-floor conference room.

Wednesday, Feb. 9

- Martin Luther King Jr. Birth-

day Observance Committee meets at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex, first-floor conference room.

- Vision 2020 Standing Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex, second-floor conference room.
- Zoning Bylaw Review Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Selectmen's Hearing Room, Town Hall, second floor.
- Finance Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Safety Building, second-floor meeting room.

- Affirmative Action Advisory Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex, third-floor conference room.

Thursday, Feb. 10

- Cemetery Commission meets at 9 a.m. in the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery chapel.
- Title IX Committee meets at 4 p.m. in Arlington High School, athletic office.
- Cultural Council meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Robbins Library, conference room, fourth floor.

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Lin S. Kelleher, formerly of Century 21 Adams, takes new management position at Century 21 Sager Real Estate in Lowell. Kelleher was affiliated with Century 21 Adams since 1992, becoming Manager of their Belmont office in 1998. During this time, Lin received designations for Relocation Director and Certified Residential Specialist, as well as Certified Trainer for Century 21 Corporate. As a licensed Instructor, Lin helped start the Century 21 Adams Realty School for pre-licensing classes. Her management skills and training have helped bring the Belmont office to "Award Winning" status year after year and is proud of her accomplishments during her reign. Lin brings these talents, including her enthusiasm, spirit and commitment to success in her new role as Manager to Century 21 Sager.

"I welcome the challenges that lie ahead and embrace the opportunity to do a job I really enjoy doing. Lowell is a very diverse community that has been experiencing much growth and rebirth, which makes it an exciting place to be. I also hope to maintain the many relationships I've established and value, over the past 13 years, here in the community I live in."

Lin can be reached at her new office at 978-459-0533 or 617-699-7702.

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St. Paul's looks to expand

By Les Masterson
STAFF WRITER

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church is one of Arlington's most widely viewed buildings.

Situated on Concord Turnpike and seen daily by Route 2 commuters, the church is a building the Redevelopment Board views as more than a church — it represents the community.

With that in mind, the board met with representatives of St. Paul's Monday to discuss the church's plans for an addition. The work includes demolishing the 13,000-square-foot portion of the building, which was constructed in 1951, and replacing it with a new wing that will be around 3,000 square feet larger. The work does not include any changes to the sanctuary.

John Benson, chairman of the church's building committee, said St. Paul's is looking to

build a new addition to provide more space for its Christian education classes. The church is limited in its current one-story building and the proposed two-story structure will allow for classes on the first floor and offices and meeting rooms on the second.

An elevator is also proposed, which will make the facility handicap accessible.

Benson said the church hopes to begin work in early June and construction is expected to last a year. Architect Sam Dennis said the most disruptive work will take place during the first six months.

Dennis said the church worked to design the addition as far away from residents as possible. The closest neighbor is 125 feet away, he said.

Faced with a tight budget, church leaders have needed to pare down the proposal: the addition is smaller than origi-

nally planned; rather than an all-brick addition, the church is proposing brick and stucco as a way to save \$40,000; and the planned design landscape has been reduced.

"There is some, but not as much as we like," said Benson of the landscape. "We've had to cut back throughout the project... We're limited by the funds we have available."

Redevelopment Board Chairman Ed Tsoi said he understood the church's constraints, but added no one will remember the church was under budget if it builds an unattractive addition.

"I always thought this was a highly prominent architecture structure, highly visible," Tsoi told church leaders and representatives. "I think you have an obligation to think about what it's going to look like. Decisions you make today will be there a lifetime."

Regarding blasting at the church, Dennis said they hope to avoid that by using jackhammers and other materials. If they need to blast, Dennis said the neighbors would be informed of the days and times.

Because the plan deals with a religious structure, the Redevelopment Board is limited in what it can demand from the church. The board Monday approved special permits on such items as setback, but the church will still need to go before the board for the 50 percent and 100 percent review process.

Tsoi asked church representatives to bring samples of materials and plans for the mechanical equipment, lighting and landscape at the next meeting.

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Garden club meeting

The Arlington Garden Club will hold its February meeting at noon on Wednesday Feb. 9 at the St. James Episcopal Church, Pleasant Street.

There will be a social hour and a chance to greet old and new friends. A business meeting will follow with information on the upcoming fashion show to be held March 13 at the Whittemore Robbins House.

Following the business meeting, the speaker for the afternoon is Donna Reed. Her topic is "Designing with Houseplants." Also, a reminder — this is the month members bring donations to the meeting for the Food Pantry.

NEWS

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HDC, developer discusses Lowell Street project

By Roberto Scalese
STAFF WRITER

The Historic District Commissions have begun informal hearings on a Lowell Street development that would move a historic home from its current location and subdivide the property into five plots. That plan is not final, however.

The property, located at 187 Lowell St., is in the Mount Gilboa Historic District. That designation puts the site's development under the purview of the Historic District Commissions.

Developer James Mackey first approached the HDC last year with a plan to develop the property, but that proposal was rejected by the commission. Mackey filed suit to challenge the decision. According to attorney Robert Scarano, the lawsuit was filed because the commission did not provide adequate reasoning for its decision.

"(Mackey) felt the board didn't give a detailed reason for their denial, which they are required to do," said Scarano.

The lawsuit is still active, but the developer has agreed to take up the commission on its offer to hold informal discussions. By using informal sessions, both sides can state their opinion without incurring the expense of designing new plans for every option. Scarano and Mackey appeared before the commission on Jan. 27.

Scarano said the plan shown at the meeting, which included a cul-de-sac and five

lots, shows what the developer can build by-right at the property.

"Mr. Mackey has explored all the possibilities available to him, including a matter-of-right zoning proposal," said Scarano.

Historic Districts Commissions Chairman Stephen Makowka disagrees with that assessment, saying the role of the HDC is established in the town's bylaws and in state law.

"We're part of the process," said Makowka.

Scarano said he hopes that the plan presented can be used as a jumping-off point for discussion.

"What Mr. Mackey was seeking was some direction from the board rather than him shooting and missing, shooting and missing," he said. "Let's work backward (from the presented plan) and tell us what you would like to see."

Makowka said future discussions will focus on what can be done at the site while still preserving the historic nature of the property.

"Part of the responsibility of the Historic District Commissions is not just the building but the entire location," said Makowka.

Last month, the Board of Selectmen, in its role as Board of Survey, declined to consider a new roadway called Colonial Circle that was part of the plan. The board tabled discussion because the HDC had already rejected Mackey's proposal last year.

Thrope excited about changes

By Roberto Scalese
STAFF WRITER

Martin Thrope thinks there's much left to do on the School Committee.

Thrope, 58, has served on the committee for 12 years. With a daughter in Ottoson Middle School, he said he still has strong interest in maintaining Arlington's solid educational footing and expanding beyond the recent budget cuts.

Thrope said he's running again because he wants to take part in the school system's fresh start. Both Superintendent Kay Donovan and Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Joanne Gurry are leaving the system. Combine that with some new faces on the School Committee, and there's a lot of room to make some much-needed changes, said Thrope.

"Over the last few years, despite the outward appearance that everything's fine on the School Committee, there have been some deep-seeded issues considering its job and its relationship with the superintendent," he said. "My role has been to act as a voice of dissent. That



Martin Thrope

may have led to the condemnation of my colleagues, but I also enjoy strong support by those in the public who see through what's going on."

Thrope said the new blood will help to re-evaluate how the committee conducts business.

"I would expect to shift gears and work in a more creative way than I do in my role now, which is to hold the line," said Thrope.

Thrope said he has positioned himself as a contrarian voice

over the last few years to combat what he views as a monolith of ideas on the School Committee. The addition of a new superintendent will help provide that type of evaluation.

"I think the opportunity is that someone can come in with a fresh pair of eyes to look at what we do and how we do it in a different way, make an assessment of this system and maybe change some things that haven't been changed in a long time," said Thrope.

Thrope said he wants the School Committee to be a little bit less of a good neighbor when it comes to the budget process.

"I think the biggest mistake the School Committee has made is being too good a municipal citizen and not enough of an advocate," said Thrope. "Ultimately, the answer may be 'no,' but it won't be for a lack of asking. We look at the size of the fiscal box and we don't look at the quality of the service we provide...so the goal of the game becomes how much can we fit in the box."

Instead, the School Committee should tell the town what it needs to provide the services for children and leave it up to the

budgeting bodies to find the money, he said.

"The kids can't advocate for themselves and they're the ones who take the hit," said Thrope. "It's the kids who benefit from this spending. It's not the schools, it's the kids. I don't get any money if our budget increases. The staff, beyond their salaries, doesn't make any more. That money is spent on services that we provide for our children. The School Committee has been derelict in its duty to advocate."

As a town, Thrope said Arlington is that rare place where there are good schools and a good community already in place.

"We are fortunate in this town. The level of effort we get out of our people is almost embarrassing how hard they work for us," said Thrope. "I can't emphasize enough that we have good, solid schools that are in a good solid community to live in and that's a powerful combination. We have room for growth, real growth, and it's all happening in a community that's a community in the truest sense of the word. And that's great for our kids."

Candidates in upcoming election

Town Clerk
*Corinne Rainville
745 Summer St.

Treasurer
*John Bilafer
15 Victoria Road

Board of Selectmen
Two seats
*Charles Lyons
82 Hathaway Circle
*Diane Mahon
23 Howard St.
Paul Addorisio
51 Pond Lane

David Barrett
22 Newman Way
Annie LaCourt
48 Chatham St.
Jason A. Tarkington
24 Draper Avenue

Assessor
*Mary Winstanley O'Connor
781 Concord Turnpike

School Committee
Three seats
*Martin Thrope
348 Gray St.
Michael Cerone
272 Sylvia St.

Sean Garballey
45 Maynard St.
Joshua Lobel
73 Jason St.

Housing Authority
*Freeland Abbott
104 Madison Ave.
Teresa Jeanne Walsh
35 Hutchinson Road

**Incumbent*
Note: School Committee members Barbara Goodman and Joani LaMachia have not said whether they will run for re-election.

Support group available

The Breast Cancer Support Group welcomes new members for its cozy community group for ongoing support, information and connection. The group meets at Lahey-

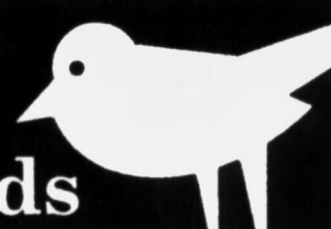
Arlington, former Symmes Hospital, from 4 to 5:15 p.m. Tuesdays.

Please call Mary Lewis Sheehan at 781-641-9962 or e-mail marylewis73@hotmail.com.

E-mail
the editor of
The Arlington
Advocate at

arlington@cnc.com

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Important dates for election

Monday, Feb. 7 — Last day for Town Meeting members who are candidates for re-election to give written notice that they are running again.

Thursday, Feb. 10 — Last day to obtain blank nomination papers.

Tuesday, Feb. 15 — Last day to submit all nomination papers to the Registrar of Voters for certification of signatures.

Monday, Feb. 28 — Last day to file nomination papers with the Town Clerk's office.

Wednesday March 2 — Last day to withdraw and/or object to all nomination papers.

Thursday, March 3 — Drawing of names for position on the ballot.

Monday, March 14 — Last day to register to vote in election.

Saturday, April 2 — Town Election.

Number of signatures to be certified

Town offices — Nomination papers must be properly signed by at least 50 voters.

Town Meeting — Nomination papers must be signed by at least 10 voters in the precinct.

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Harpoon 12 pks.....	\$11.99	12 pk bottles.....	\$12.99
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- Being Julia (R) — 1:30; 3:35; 5:40; 7:45; 9:50
- Spanglish (Pg13) — 2:35; 5:05; 7:35; 10:05
- Ocean's Twelve (Pg13) — 4:55; 7:25; 9:55
- The Incredibles (Pg) — 1:35; 4
- Finding Neverland (Pg) — 1:25; 3:30; 5:35; 7:40; 9:45
- Ray (Pg13) — 6:50; 9:40
- The Spongebob Squarepants Movie (Pg) — 1:10; 3:10

Saturday & Sunday,
Feb. 5 & Feb. 6

- Kinsey (R) — 12; 2:30; 5; 7:30; 10
- Being Julia (R) — 11:25; 1:30; 3:35; 5:40; 7:45; 9:50
- Spanglish (Pg13) — 12:05; 2:35; 5:05; 7:35; 10:05
- Ocean's Twelve (Pg13) — 4:55; 7:25; 9:55
- The Incredibles (Pg) — 11; 1:35; 4
- Finding Neverland (Pg) — 11:20; 1:25; 3:30; 5:35; 7:40; 9:45
- Ray (Pg13) — 6:50; 9:40
- The Spongebob Squarepants Movie (Pg) — 11:10; 1:10; 3:10

Monday-Thursday
Feb. 7-Feb. 10

- Kinsey (R) — 2:30; 5; 7:30; 10
- Being Julia (R) — 1:30; 3:35; 5:40; 7:45; 9:50
- Spanglish (Pg13) — 2:35; 5:05; 7:35; 10:05
- Ocean's Twelve (Pg13) — 4:55; 7:25; 9:55
- The Incredibles (Pg) — 1:35; 4
- Finding Neverland (Pg) — 1:25; 3:30; 5:35; 7:40; 9:45
- Ray (Pg13) — 6:50; 9:40
- The Spongebob Squarepants Movie (Pg) — 1:10; 3:10

Survey questions residents on access

By Roberto Scalese
STAFF WRITER

Vision 2020 wants to know where residents want to go and how to get there.

The town organization's survey's theme this year is centered on access in Arlington. Respondents answer questions about physical access to services, information access and access to fitness.

The surveys were sent out with the December tax bill. The surveys that come back are gathered and analyzed to give town leaders a sense of how the residents feel about different topics.

The access question was selected this year because Arlington has people who may have trouble getting around town, including those in wheelchairs and parents with strollers.

"We asked people to weigh in on their needs and many spoke

of access," said Vision 2020 Standing Committee Chairman Jane Howard.

Physical access questions focus on buildings both public and private in town, along with roadway crossings and snow removal. Modes of transportation are also catalogued in this section.

Information access questions respondents on how they get their news about the town, be it through the newspaper, e-mail or the Town's Web site. It also asks about residents' appetite for Web-based services, such as online bill payments. One question asks whether residents would consider paying a fee for online services.

Access to fitness questions ask residents about exercising regimens and how often they are active.

The survey is the first in a

few years that does not deal with Arlington's continuing fiscal problems. Howard said the topic is important, but has been thoroughly reviewed by the surveys.

"We felt we had explored a good many aspects of that issue," said Howard. "We thought we'd go more toward other responsibilities we have."

Howard asked that residents who respond to the survey remember to include their precinct number in the information provided. That way, Vision 2020 has a better view of who's responding to the surveys and if there are geographic areas of concern.

"Anyone who receives a sur-

vey has the precinct number printed in the top left corner of the census form," said Howard.

Several groups contributed to the questions on the report, said Howard, including the Transportation Advisory Committee and Information Technology Advisory Committee.

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What's the Value of an Antibias Curriculum? Shouldn't Schools Be Teaching Math and Reading Instead of All That "PC" Stuff?

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Scientists have concocted an ingenious test that reveals a critical milestone in human development—the awareness of a self. The toddler, with a smudge of lipstick on a cheek, is given a mirror. If he or she reaches to touch the mirror, that moment hasn't yet arrived. But if the child touches his or her own cheek, a sense of self has settled in.

Along with self-awareness comes a sense of "other." As children grow to understand their individuality, they also grow to understand the differences that define others.

Understanding differences serves as a foundation for becoming part of a community.

But the challenge of difference is a complicated and often uncomfortable one. We can sometimes have visceral, almost instinctual reactions to difference. We may find that the practices and beliefs of some groups conflict with our own, and we can be dismissive, unappreciative, or even feel threatened. It's not easy for adults, and it is not always easy for children to be open to difference.

Progressive education endeavors to challenge the impact of bias on children's social and intellectual development by helping them acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to live respectfully in a diverse community. Critics of antibias learning suggest that dealing with topics such as racism and sexism is a waste of valuable school time—time that

should be better spent on "real learning skills." But a good antibias curriculum is far from a political platform.

An antibias approach is about the development and strengthening of critical thinking skills. It's about teaching children to differentiate between an emotional response and a reasoned response or opinion. It's about learning to think compassionately as well as dispassionately, and knowing the difference. The way an antibias curriculum works is that it shines a

light on important questions that have been the stuff of politics, philosophy, religion, and ethics for thousands of years: What is society? Are people inherently good? What are our obligations to others? What is justice?

Antibias conversations validate the natural hope and optimism of children

and speak to their growing sense of justice, their passion for fairness. Young children can often see past complexity to the truth. A strong antibias program helps to preserve the openness of children's hearts and minds—and that can strengthen intellectual development.

At the core of an antibias education is this question: How should we treat other people? How do we expect to be treated? An antibias approach to learning is an ethical approach to learning. It is a true "values" education, a true "character" education. It's teaching the golden rule.

Lesley Ellis School's antibias curriculum was recently recognized with the 2005 Leading Edge Award from the National Association of Independent Schools. Find out more about our curriculum at lesleyellis.org.

Lesley Ellis School, Arlington, MA 02474 www.lesleyellis.org 781.641.5987



Meeting will focus on parking in the East

Arlington residents are invited to a meeting focussing on the issues of parking on residential streets in East Arlington at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 7 in the Fox Library.

Parking on these streets has been a longstanding concern of residents. This winter and spring, the town of Arlington's Transportation Advisory Committee will be partnering with a team of students from Tufts University School of Engineer-

ing to look into the issue and develop comprehensive policy recommendations.

The primary study area is bounded by Lake Street, Massachusetts Avenue, Route 16 and the Donald R. Marquis Minute-man Trail, but TAC will consider the impact of its recommendations on surrounding areas.

For further information, please send an e-mail to eparking@comcast.net, or call Scott Smith at 781-648-6223.

Election workers sought

Residents interested in serving as election workers at the polls should please contact

either Mary Ann or Jean in the office of the Board of Selectmen at 781-316-3020.

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Boston Heart Party includes local eatery

Pfizer Inc. and 53 local restaurants — including Za in Arlington — will kick off an effort to raise awareness of CVD risk factors as part of Pfizer's 7th annual Boston Heart Party Feb. 8.

For the second consecutive year, restaurants across the city are uniting to meet the health needs of their patrons and communities by offering heart-smart dishes on their menus and distributing educational materials.

In 2004, 22 restaurants joined Pfizer's Boston Heart Party by offering heart-healthy dishes on their menus and distributing educational materials. The increased visibility of Pfizer's Boston Heart Party program in local restaurants helped contribute to a 34 percent increase in women and men attending CVD screenings than in the previous year.

In 2005, the restaurant program has expanded to include a greater variety of restaurants including diverse cuisine, price levels and geographic locations in an effort to enhance outreach and make heart-smart options and educational materials available in more Eastern Massachusetts communities.

The Brigham and Women's Hospital Department of Nutrition, one of Pfizer's Boston Heart Party sponsors, analyzed

all recipes to ensure they met heart health standards and certified them for the campaign. The heart-smart items will be indicated on menus with Pfizer's Boston Heart Party logo at participating restaurants.

"Consumer awareness of healthy eating is vital to the overall decrease of CVD deaths in this country," said Kathy McManus, director of nutrition at the Brigham and Women's Hospital and nutritional advisor to Pfizer's Boston Heart Party. "The increased awareness about CVD risk prevention in local restaurants gives their patrons a reason to choose heart-healthy options and take a step toward improving their own health."

CVD is the number one killer of Americans and kills nearly 500,000 women each year. The Boston Heart Party is a CVD awareness and screening campaign sponsored by Pfizer Inc. and several leading healthcare institutions and employers in Greater Boston.

Sponsors offer free cholesterol, blood pressure and glucose screenings at more than 100 locations across Eastern Massachusetts from the first day of spring, March 20 through Mother's Day, May 8.

For more information, please visit www.bostonheartparty.com.

Traffic calming forum set

A 30 mph sign won't slow cars if the street is designed for 45-mph traffic, even if there's a police officer on every corner. So what can control traffic?

Can communities maintain the flow of cars on busy streets, while still letting school children and shoppers cross safely? How can neighborhood streets be more comfortable for pedestrians and bicyclists? Can better design make streets safer?

Cara Seiderman has answers. Seiderman, transportation program manager for the city of Cambridge, is a nationally known expert on traffic calming. She is giving a talk on traffic calming that's being sponsored and supported by 12 community groups in Belmont, Arlington, Waltham and Watertown, on Thursday, Feb. 10 from 7:30

to 9 p.m. at Chenery Middle School Auditorium, 95 Washington St., Belmont.

Seiderman oversees the bicycle, pedestrian and traffic calming programs in Cambridge. She regularly gives workshops and presentations on livable community design and serves on state and national transportation committees.

Seiderman is serving on the Massachusetts Governor's Highway Design Task Force; Steering Committee, Massachusetts Historic Parkways Initiative; and the Transportation Research Board Committee on Bicycle Transportation. She was awarded the Influence Pedaler Award from the Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition in 2000.

Seiderman's talk is being co-sponsored

by the Arlington Transportation Advisory Committee, Belmont Walks/Bikes, Belmont Bikeway Committee, Belmont League of Women Voters, Citizens for Lexington Core Conservation, East End Neighbors (Watertown), Lexington Transportation Advisory Committee, Lexington Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, Lexington Bicycle Advisory Committee, Lexington Friends of the Bikeway, South Lexington Civic Association, Trapelo Neighborhood Association (Waltham), Watertown Bicycle Committee and Watertown Citizens for Environmental Safety.

For more information, call the Belmont Citizens Forum 617-484-1844.

Submitted by the Transportation Advisory Committee.

New community ed brochure available

Want to relax with yoga or knitting? Become a pro in digital photography? Meditate in motion with Tai Chi? Paint our own silk scarf? Take a bird walk through the Arlington Reservoir? Fill your kitchen with the delicious aromas of freshly baking breads and simmering stews?

Look no further than the all-new Arlington Community Education (ACE) catalog, packed with more than 90 fun, interesting and exciting courses to enliven winter and spring evenings. Classes are taught by talented profession-

als and offered at below-market prices.

Long on curiosity, but short on time? Check out the many one and two-night workshops that run throughout March, April and May, including: Back Pain Yoga Clinic, Wedding Dancing: a One-Night Workshop, Rejuvenating Skin Care, First Aid for Pets, Feng Shui and Bike Repair.

More than 30 new courses include: Watercolor for Travel Journals, Pilates, Garden Coaching, Wine Sampler, Introduction to Zen, Conquer Clutter in Your Home and Office, Writing Work-

shop, Effective Parenting and Beginning Photography.

A complete list of courses is available on the Web at www.town.arlington.ma.us/commed.

Brochures are mailed to all Arlington residents and are available at the Community Education Office at Arlington High School, Arlington libraries and many locations throughout town. Most classes are held during the evenings at Arlington High School beginning the week of March 1. Non-residents are most welcome.

You can register by mail, phone or fax, and may pay by check, cash Visa or MasterCard.

The Community Education Office is open on Monday and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to noon; and Tuesday and Thursday evenings when classes are in session, only, from 5-8 p.m. The office is located on the first floor of Arlington High School, just off the Main Lobby.

Call 781-316-3568 or e-mail communityed@arlington.k12.ma.us.

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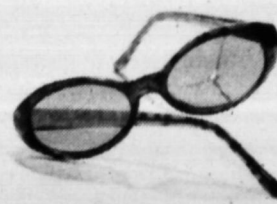
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JOYCE

Fire Department asks residents to adopt-a-hydrant

When snowstorms produce snow amounts that require plowing, many fire hydrants become obstructed and buried from the plowed and shoveled snow.

The firefighters are out on the roads as soon as possible to begin clearing the snow away from the hydrants; however, with the reduction of nine firefighters from the department, there are fewer firefighters available on each shift to staff the trucks and shovel hydrants.

Therefore, in the interest of public safety, if you have a fire hydrant near your home or place of business and physically capable of shoveling the snow away from the hydrant, please adopt that hydrant and clear away the snow.

Many hands make light work, and could save a life, if the phys-

ically able citizens "adopt a hydrant," the firefighters can expend their energy on the "orphaned" hydrants and everybody benefits from this cooperative approach.

Massachusetts State Law Chapter 48, section 27B states that no person other than an employee in the service of the commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof or in the service of an independent contractor acting for the commonwealth or any such subdivision shall pile, push or plow snow or ice on or against any fire hydrant on a public or private way so as to conceal such hydrant. Whoever violates this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100.

Submitted by the Arlington Fire Department.

Magic show on Saturday

On Saturday, Feb. 5 in the Robbins Library Community Room, the library will welcome residents to join Giles Holt for his magic show and more.

Learn a few tricks and get yourself a balloon sculpture. The show is from 11 a.m. to noon and is recommended for ages 4 to 10. Space is limited.

Pick up a number at the Children's Reference Desk beginning on Thursday, February 3rd. We are sure it will be fun and entertaining for all.

For more information, call the Children's Library at 781-316-3234. The program is sponsored by the Russell Trust Fund and is free and open to the public. Visit the Robbins Library Web site at www.robbinslibrary.org.

Go on a safari at Robbins Library

Venture with Gail LaRocca on a spectacular audiovisual safari through the Serengeti plains, Rubondo Island, Ruaha and Tarangire Parks of Tanzania, East Africa at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12 in the Robbins Library Community Room. Gaze across the sun baked

ROBBINS LIBRARY NEWS

plains dotted with extinct volcanoes and soda lakes swarming with flamingos. Catch giraffes peering through strands of yellow-barked acacia and elephants jousting at the waterhole. Listen for the deep roars of the lion and watch for the eyes of the jungle that shine at the night.

Engage in lively discussion with LaRocca about the Maasai warriors, the Hadza hunter-gatherers, Kusaama farmers, and village life. A breadth of questions are answered regarding body adornments, family chores and pastimes, animal behavior, and climates of East Africa.

Jambo Africa is a full hour of sharing how others in the world live. Space is limited. Numbers can be picked up at the Children's Library Reference Desk starting on Thursday, Feb. 10. Program is recommended for grades 3 to adults.

For more information, call the Children's Library at 781-316-3234. All programs are free and open to the public. The program is sponsored by the Russell Trust Fund.

Sing along schedule

Sing alongs for infants and toddlers will be held at the Robbins Library on Tuesdays, Feb. 8, and 15 at 10 a.m.

There will be no sing alongs on Feb. 22 and March 1 because of the book sale in the community room. They will

resume at the Robbins Library every Tuesday beginning on March 8. The sing alongs will continue at the Fox Library on Thursdays at 10 a.m.

The Fox Library is located at 175 Massachusetts Ave. and the Robbins Library is located at 700 Massachusetts Ave.

The sing alongs are sponsored by the Russell Trust Fund. Visit the Robbins Library Web site at www.robbinslibrary.org.

Research ancestors

Visit the New England Historical Genealogical Society Library for free.

The library has been the recipient of weekday and weekend passes from NEHGS. This is a pilot project through April 2005.

With a free pass, residents may consult with a reference librarian, browse the open book stacks, view Vital Records of Massachusetts through 1910, search the online catalog of sources and continue the search for ancestors.

The Robbins Library has also subscribed to NewEnglandAncestors.org. You may access the database at the computer terminals in the Reference room. There are many sources to explore on this Web site. Take research one step further and gain access to a variety of materials online.

The Research Library is located at 101 Newbury St., Boston. Library hours are Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 9-5 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday from 9-9 p.m.; and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Closed Mondays.

Magazines galore at library

When everybody is always talking about the Internet, it is easy to forget that there still are many wonderful resources on paper.

At the Robbins Library, patrons will find an entire room devoted to newspapers and magazines. Interested in training a new puppy? Dog Fancy has many articles on this topic.

Curious about what liberal columnists have been saying about the November election results? Try Utne, which reprints articles from other magazines and newspapers. The library subscribes to about 300 different titles, on topics ranging from gardening to business to politics.

Come and browse the Robbins Library magazine and newspaper collection. Issues from the current year can be found in the Reading Room,



across from the Circulation Desk. The library also keeps issues from past years in storage; these can be requested at the Circulation Desk.

Magazines for children are shelved separately in the Children's Room on the lower level.

Framed prints available

Want to spruce up your home or apartment for the new year? Borrow framed art prints from the library's beautiful and extensive collection.

The prints vary widely in size, shape, color and subject matter, so that you are sure to find something that suits your particular taste and decorating style. Hang them on your walls for six weeks at a time, then select others for yet another change of scene.

Check out the display on the library's first floor during the month of January and see the rest of the collection on the second floor.

Limit two per customer, all free with your library card.

Volunteer needed

The Robbins Library is in need of a volunteer to work two hours per week mending books.

The work requires good finger dexterity, but no experience is needed and training will be provided. Volunteer hours must be between 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

If interested, call Cindy Diminture at 781-316-3202.

Moratorium on book donations

Because of the generosity of patrons, the Robbins Library storage closets are overflowing.

The Friends of the Robbins Library has instituted a moratorium on further book donations until Wednesday, Feb. 16. The next semi-annual book sale will take place on Friday, Feb. 25 and Saturday, Feb. 26, with a preview sale for Friends' members on Thursday, Feb. 24.

Patrons wishing to donate books prior to Feb. 16 are encouraged to contact the Trinity Baptist Church at 781-643-4771. The church maintains a book collection bin for "Hands Across the Water," a group that send books to other countries to assist people learning English.



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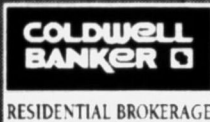
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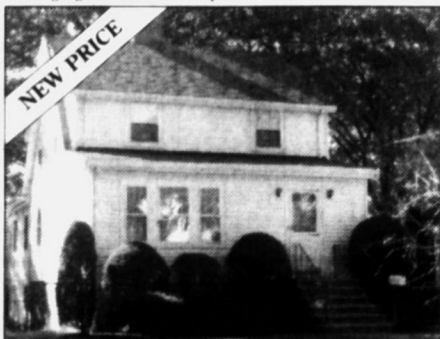
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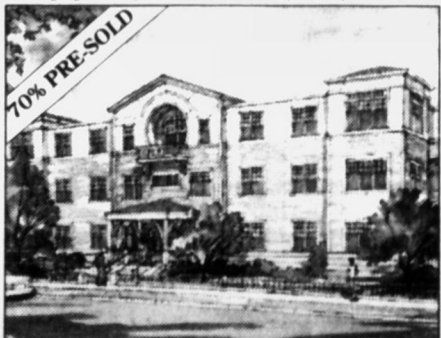
ARLINGTON - Fabulous new renovation by one of Arlington's top developers. Walk to T - Red Line, bike path, restaurants and shopping. Kitchen has stainless steel appliances, granite, hardwood floors, C.A. This unit is currently being renovated and should be ready for occupancy mid to late Feb. \$439,000

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Kaufman forum explores environmental debate

Lexington Reads joins Rep. Jay Kaufman, D-Lexington, in sponsoring this month's "Open House" public policy forum looking at "Reframing the Environmental Debate: National Security, Jobs, and Environmental Protection." The forum will take place on Monday, Feb. 14 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the National Heritage Museum at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Marrett Road (Route 2A) in Lexington.

Kaufman's guests for this two-hour program will be Kevin Knobloch, president of the Union of Concerned Scientists, Mindy Lubber, executive director of CERES (Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies), and Jim Gomes, CEO of the Environmental League of Massachusetts.

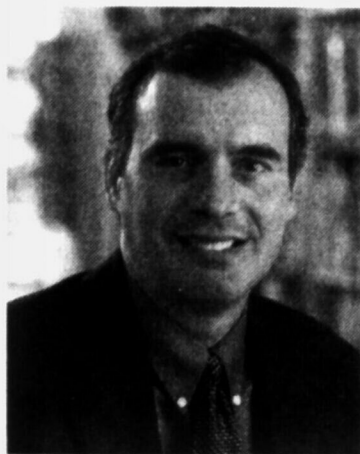
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questions at the intersection of environmental protection, national security and economic growth. Can we articulate the link between environmental consciousness and sound economics? Is there a connection between growth and environmental protection? What role does or should environmental policy play in the debate over national and international security?

For further information, please call Rep. Kaufman's State House office 617-722-2552.



Kevin Knobloch

Troop 313 collecting equipment for children

Arlington Boy Scout Troop 313 is collecting new and used soccer equipment to send to Afghanistan by Mail.

The equipment will be shipped to soldiers in the US Army who are starting a soccer league for the Afghani youth. The project was undertaken at the suggestion of the Executive Director of the Arlington Boys and Girls Club Dan Brosnan, whose nephew, Andy, is serving in Afghanistan. Local Boy Scout Michael Loud is organizing the drive as his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project.

The goal is to collect more than 600 complete sets of equipment. Each set would include shirts, shorts, socks (new), shin guards and cleats, all in youth sizes. Other types of soccer equipment that are needed are balls, nets, cones and equipment bags.

These donations will be cleaned and inventoried by Boy Scout Troop 313. Then, with the help

of local businesses, the equipment will be boxed and shipped to Afghanistan where the US soldiers will distribute the equipment.

It is hoped local organizations, sports leagues, businesses and individuals will donate any of these items, either new or used. The only restriction is the equipment must be in usable condition. This program is a way to both support our troops in Afghanistan and provide an opportunity for Afghani youth to enjoy participating in sports.

Donations may be dropped off only on Sunday, Jan. 30 or Sunday, Feb. 13 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Arlington Boys and Girls Club outdoor basketball court.

Please do not drop items off at other times because this is a project of the Boy Scouts and there is no indoor storage space available at the club.

For more information, please call Michael Loud at 781-641-3584.

Germaine Lawrence recognizing milestone

This spring, Germaine Lawrence will mark its 25th anniversary of providing residential treatment services for adolescent girls with a celebratory benefit dinner and auction.

Germaine Lawrence, located in Arlington, provides services to girls between the ages of 11-18 whose emotional and behavioral problems make it difficult for them to live with their families and in their communities.

Germaine Lawrence offers students a comprehensive spectrum of services that helps them to develop age-appropriate social skills, continue their

schooling and make enough progress to enable them to live in the community safely again. Each of our specialized programs incorporates comprehensive clinical services, a state approved special education program and a structured, therapeutic, residential environment.

Each year, the facility is successful with approximately 80 percent of the more than 200 girls it serves, enabling them to return to their families or communities.

Germaine Lawrence's 25th anniversary gala benefit dinner and auction will take place on

May 1 at the Boston Marriott in Newton. Proceeds from the event will go toward the completion of Germaine Lawrence's \$2 million "Building the Vision: Rebuilding Lives" capital campaign to build two new homes specially designed to meet the needs of our students.

Diane Monteith, Kathleen Krueger Goshgarian and Cathy Zolner of Arlington are on the planning committee for the celebration. Additional committee members are welcome. For more information, please contact Kate at Germaine Lawrence at 781-859-1220.

Local UJP co-sponsors forum in Waltham

On Friday, Feb. 4 from 7 to 9 p.m., a community forum will be held at St. John's Methodist Church, 80 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, with former National Guardswoman Sergeant Kelly Dougherty and Reserve Marine Lance Corporal Michael Hoffman.

They will speak about their experiences in Iraq and why they believe violence against US soldiers and Iraqis will only esca-

late until U.S. forces leave the country. The event is co-sponsored by Arlington United for Justice with Peace.

Dougherty and Hoffman are co-founders of Iraq Veterans Against The War, which is calling for an immediate withdrawal from Iraq. Since its July 2004 founding, IVAW has been the subject of intense media and public interest.

Its members regularly criss-

cross the country giving talks to standing-room-only audiences in churches, schools, labor halls and other venues. IVAW is "committed to saving lives and ending the violence in Iraq by an immediate withdrawal of all occupying forces," according to a statement on the group's Web page.

A \$7 donation is requested; all students may attend for free.

Reps support changing redistricting process

In a bid to end the age-old practice of political gerrymandering, a coalition of advocacy groups and 55 legislative cosponsors have filed legislation that would create an independent commission to oversee the divisive redistricting process.

The coalition, including Common Cause Massachusetts, the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, the NAACP New England Area Conference, MassVOTE and MassVoters for Fair Elections, along with legislative leaders including Rep. Jay Kaufman (D-Lexington), Jim Marzilli (D-Arlington), and Anne Paulsen (D-Belmont), appeared last week at a Beacon Hill news conference touting the proposal.

Along with the creation of the independent commission, the legislation calls for more stringent guidelines to direct the redrawing of electoral boundaries.

"Massachusetts pioneered the practice of political gerrymandering. We can be one of the first states to end the practice," said Pamela Wilmut, executive director of Common Cause Massachusetts. "For too long, some Massachusetts leaders have used redistricting as a tool to maintain political power — instead of creating open and fair districts for the citizens of the commonwealth. That needs to end. This is the right reform at the right time."

"With this legislation, we have the unique opportunity to restore citizen confidence in the political process and ensure a greater degree of fairness and

efficiency in that process," said Kaufman. "We can and should learn from the eleven other states that have already implemented similar reforms. Our constituents would undoubtedly be better served if this reform becomes law."

Paulsen said, "The boundaries of Legislative districts should be established in a fair and equitable manner. This legislation begins the reform we need to ensure impartiality in the redistricting process."

Marzilli underscored the need for impartiality, saying, "True redistricting reform won't take place as long as incumbents have the power to determine the shape of districts to their advantage. This legislation enables us to make cohesive, contiguous and fair districts a priority and takes the power out of the hands of the legislature."

Last fall, Common Cause Massachusetts ran public policy advisory questions on fair redistricting in 15 representative districts, asking voters if they would support creation of an independent commission to redraw districts rather than the state legislature. In each of the 15 districts, the questions passed overwhelmingly, by an average of 67 percent.

A longtime staple of American politics, gerrymandering has grabbed headlines in many states over the past few years. In 2003, Texas legislators fled the state, rather than be forced to vote on Rep. Tom DeLay's plan that handed districts over to Republicans, even though the state had redistricted only

two years prior.

In Massachusetts, former House Speaker Thomas Finneran is at the center of an ongoing federal grand jury probe for allegedly lying under oath about his role in the creation of racially gerrymandered legislative districts in Boston. Those districts were thrown out last year by a federal district court for violating the Federal Voting Rights Act. The courts also rejected a Massachusetts redistricting plan in 1987.

Coalition members claim the problem of gerrymandered districts has gotten worse in recent years with the use of efficient computer software that allows lawmakers to slice and dice districts at the touch of a button. One of the most disturbing results of the existing process is diminished political competition, according to Alexandra Russell of MassVoters for Fair Elections.

"Campaign finance reform and redistricting reform are both important to bring more people into the political process and to help hold our elected officials accountable," Russell said. "Competition in legislative races prior to this year has hovered in the 30 percent range, placing us next to last in the nation for electoral competitiveness."

Coalition members pledged to wage a vigorous and visible campaign to enact the proposal and were encouraged by the number and diversity of legislative cosponsors.

Submitted by the offices of Rep. Jay Kaufman, Jim Marzilli and Anne Paulsen.

Office hours for Paulsen at Fox Library

Rep. Anne M. Paulsen will hold office hours in Arlington on Wednesday, Feb. 9, from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Fox Library at the corner of Cleveland Street and Massachusetts Avenue.

All East Arlington residents are welcome to

come and meet Representative Paulsen, to let her know about concerns they have or to ask for help with legislation or in dealing with state agencies

Office hours for Marzilli on Friday

State Rep. Jim Marzilli will hold office hours Friday, Feb. 4 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Council on Aging, which is located at 27 Maple St.

During this time, residents can come to discuss their concerns about town and state mat-

ters, legislation and problems they are having with state agencies. Rep. Marzilli can also be contacted at his Boston office 617-722-2460 or Rep.JamesMarzilli@hou.state.ma.us.

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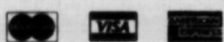
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Perspectives

EDITORIAL Madrigals, orchestra are credit to town

Before heading off to tour Europe this month, the Arlington High School Madrigal Singers and Honors Orchestra will perform a free concert in the school's Lowe Auditorium on Thursday, Feb. 10.

The performance is a way to thank the community for its support before the teens go to Europe for a tour. The trek will be the groups' third to the continent over the past five years. In the past, they have visited Rome and Sicily and this time the students will tour Vienna and Venice. The itinerary will include sightseeing, in addition to performing in front of the European audiences.

The two groups have been busy rehearsing for the tour and next week's farewell concert. The orchestra has been working on classical, pop and jazz-inspired pieces, while the Madrigals have been belting out 15th-century music, spirituals and Broadway tunes.

Next Thursday, the public will see the finished product, but everyone should know the hours of work that go into each performance. Students arrive at school an hour early and rehearse while most of us are just getting out of bed.

With so many honors, it's easy to

become complacent about the Performing Arts Department. The musicians are recognized so often and put on such amazing performances that it becomes expected.

We have come to expect great things from the Performing Arts Department, whether it is the Madrigal Singers, Honors Orchestra or high school musicals.

Year after year, Performing Arts Director and Honors Orchestra leader Pasquale Tassone and his staff push students to become better musicians and singers. Arlington is lucky to have such dedicated instructors and students.

Next Thursday, the community can get to see the fruits of labor before the Madrigals and orchestra head off to represent Arlington across the pond.

The night is a chance for the public to get out of the house and celebrate the dedication and mastery of the high school's performing arts program.

The Advocate congratulates the Madrigals and Honors Orchestra for their dedication. The students continue to represent the community admirably and we hope Arlingtonians take the opportunity to show their gratitude at next week's concert.



Backward glance

Around 1910, professional photographer William Doane of 1253 Massachusetts Ave. captured — or quite possibly even posed — this image of four boys sledding down Wolaston Avenue. Doane later published this view as a postcard. Sledding (then known as "coasting") was allowed on designated streets in the early decades of the automobile era.

COURTESY ARLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Shoveling gives sense of community

Very rarely do my husband and I argue, but on last Thursday, we got into a very heated debate over the editorial regarding the issue of shoveling snow ("Snow removal bylaw legislates being neighborly," Jan. 27 Advocate).

My husband agrees with the editor and believes that the town should invest in sidewalk plows to clear the snow from all the sidewalks in the town. I, on the other hand, feel that while it would be nice for the town to clear the sidewalks, it is not feasible and that given the current state of things, it is more important for the town to invest in snow removal equipment and manpower to do a better job of clearing the streets and sidewalks that about town owned property.

Arlington does have a large elderly population and I believe that the majority of the elderly population resides in buildings that have employees who remove the snow from the properties. The problem is that society is full of people who have no real sense of community.

There are many people living here in Arlington who feel as long as they are able to get their cars out of their driveways that they have done their job. They give no consideration to those of us who walk or for their elderly neighbors and physically disabled neighbors who cannot shovel. They are lazy and selfish.

Many homeowners probably pay for a landscaping company to maintain their yards during the nicer weather, and that probably includes the small strip of town-owned grass that is in front of most properties. Should we expect the town to maintain that as well? Could these same companies be hired in the winter for snow removal?

The editorial also stated that the people in East Arlington are hard pressed to clear their sidewalks because of space. Well, don't most people in East Arlington have front lawns? Couldn't they put the snow from the sidewalks onto their lawns?

East Arlington is not the only area in which the houses are

close together and yet they are the only ones we should feel sorry for. Most people, unless they live on a corner lot, have about 60 feet of frontage and if they cannot clear 60 feet or less of snow, they have a problem.

Christine Carney
RICHFIELD ROAD

Disagrees with editorial

I strongly disagree with your view on residents shoveling their sidewalks. In the first place that 20 percent of seniors you mentioned are the most likely (except maybe children) to hurt themselves struggling through drifts, slipping on the ice or walking on narrowed streets.

If they can't clear at least a shovel-wide path on the sidewalks in front of their houses, they need to pay someone to do it: paying for such services is part of the price of owning a house. Actually I bet half of those seniors live in condos or apartment buildings. And it's cheaper than being sued when someone falls.

OK, we don't own the sidewalks the rest of the year. But if we expect the town to buy more sidewalk plows and pay people to do the job, are we willing to come up with the money? With higher taxes? Cuts in education? What?

I think the town has done a fantastic job of clearing snow this winter. As a senior (I'm 75), I'm most grateful. And I think that at least in the Heights, where I live, most people have done well on their own sidewalks. Thanks to you all!

Katharine Lawrence
PARK AVENUE

Plows pushing snow on sidewalks

Your editorial "Snow removal legislates being neighborly" struck a chord with me.

After the latest blizzard, on Sunday night and Monday morning I shoveled the sidewalk to meet my neighbors' shoveled sidewalk. On Tuesday morning and a few days thereafter, the town plows pushed a mixture of salt, ice and snow 6 to 7 feet high on my previously shoveled sidewalk. My snowblower could not remove any of this mixture of ice

and snow.

I understand that to widen the corner of the street, the plows have to put the snow someplace. However, when they fill in a previously shoveled sidewalk, they should be responsible for clearing the shoveled area. This condition at the street corners and intersections is typical in my area of the town.

When I moved to Arlington in the mid-1960s, a sidewalk plow cleared the sidewalks on all routes to schools. I know that will never happen again, but some provisions should be made to clear sidewalks where the town has piled it high along routes where children walk to school.

A few years ago, a woman walking her dog attempted to climb over a pile of ice and snow at this same corner. She fell and broke her ankle. I do not want to see anything like that happen

Walter H. Weidner Jr.
GRAY STREET

Clearing sidewalks matter of safety

There are a few points that I would like to make regarding last Thursday's editorial, "Snow removal bylaw legislates being neighborly." The first is to resolve that keeping Arlington's sidewalks clear isn't a question of being neighborly — it's a matter of public safety.

The grim truth is that automotive accidents involving pedestrians are far more likely to cause injuries and fatalities. The key to preventing these accidents is to provide both pedestrians and motorists with a safe place to travel. Sidewalks are an integral part of Arlington's public ways, during all seasons.

My second point is that the responsibility for clearing sidewalks is largely a fiscal issue. Although the editorial questioned the legality of the status quo, Massachusetts General Law clearly grants towns the right to require property owners to clear abutting sidewalks.

Arlington's sidewalks, as part of our public ways, belong to all of us. But if the town were to shoulder responsibility for clearing them, it would likely come in the form of an added tax burden.

While there can be debate over who should shoulder the responsibility, there should be none over the importance of keeping our sidewalks clear. Let's keep both the debate and the sidewalks open.

Elisabeth Carr-Jones
LEHIGH STREET

Issues with snow plowing

There is a bylaw in Arlington, that the landowner is responsible for clearing snow from the sidewalk. This snow removal is not the problem of the Department of Public Works (DPW).

Often, the DPW is the problem, piling snow from the street onto the sidewalk. There is no solution evident.

Last winter, there was a letter here complaining that the intersections of Herbert Road were plowed onto the sidewalk within a couple blocks of the Hardy School. Then, I had considered recommending the use of stakes with reflectors to mark the sidewalks. Nevermind. I have to purchase replacements for my marking.

"Who owns this (sidewalk)?" seems to be the only concern, as voiced by the operator of the front-end loader who was filling trucks with snow at my corner on Saturday.

I shoveled the sidewalk after the front-end loader left. That's four times in a week, twice to clean up after the DPW. There is a bylaw in Arlington, that the landowner is responsible for clearing snow from the sidewalk.

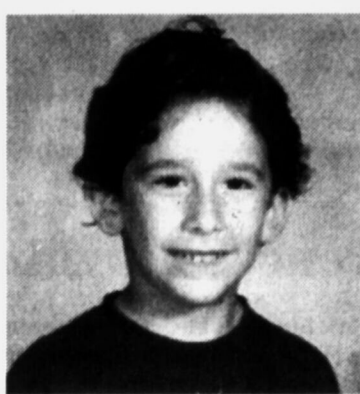
Besides, I am adjacent to the Stratton School, and I think it's nice if the neighborhood kids don't have to dodge the school buses from Dallin as they walk to school.

Jonathan Cole
PHEASANT AVENUE

A child's life is saved Thompson

It was an ordinary school day for Michael Legere, 7-year-old student of Mrs. Rice's first grade. That is until his a.m. snack time.

While munching on a snack, Mikey's fellow classmates noticed a "funny" look on his



Michael Legere

face and that he was not breathing. They quickly screamed for Mrs. Rice who responded quickly in performing the Heimlich Maneuver several times before the cracker became dislodged.

Had it not been for this persistence with this maneuver, our grandson would not be with us today.

Thank you, Mrs. Rice, for your quick response in coming to Michael's aid. I'm sure you acquired several gray hairs over this situation.

We also would like to thank Liz, the school nurse, who kept checking on Michael throughout the day to see that he was OK.

Teachers don't just educate our children, but are concerned about them in many other ways. In school these are their children. It is such a comforting feeling to know that when Michael is sent off to Thompson each day, that he is in such capable hands.

A great big thank you to all his fellow classmates for the support they gave him when he didn't know what was happening.

And what about Mikey? Well, he does not talk while he is eating and he chews his food well before swallowing.

Thank you — all.

Bunny Legere
RIVER STREET

Questions dismissal

I am writing to express my dismay over the dismissal of the girls varsity soccer coach Danielle Athanasiadis by Arlington High School Principal Charles Skidmore.

It seems that this dismissal has been based largely on the

complaints of a very few parents disgruntled that their daughters did not receive enough playing time this past season. It is incomprehensible to me that any high school varsity coach would be dismissed for anything so trivial.

I have been involved with soccer in Arlington for the better part of 10 years. I have coached girls from ages 9-18, at levels from Division 1 to Div 4. Youth sports (grades K-8) are all about equal playing time and player development. Varsity sports, and varsity sport, is about putting the best team on the field at any given time. If we dismissed coaches for three or four parent complaints, then I'm sure a case could be made to dismiss every varsity coach at Arlington High.

There has been no official statement made by Mr. Skidmore concerning this incident, even though a large number of current players, parents and acquaintances of Ms. Athanasiadis have spoken on her behalf. I understand this is a personnel issue and the principal cannot comment on the specifics of Ms. Athanasiadis' dismissal, but what about the processes used to arrive at this decision? Specifically, I would like the answer to the following questions:

Why were the complaints of so few disgruntled parents given so much weight, when the comments of far more players and parents in support of this coach were ignored?

Why did this decision come from the principal and not the athletic director? How much experience in varsity athletics does Mr. Skidmore possess?

Did Mr. Skidmore actually witness any of Ms. Athanasiadis' coaching? Did he attend any games or practices? I would think after receiving complaints about an employee, he would make an effort to observe that employee for himself.

Are there any printed coaching guidelines that this coach violated? Are there any printed coaching guidelines at all? If not, then how can any coach be dismissed for violating policy?

Let me make it clear that I am not attacking Mr. Skidmore here.

Letters, Page 12

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